

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROPOSED
2004 CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN AND
AMENDMENT TO THE 2003 CDBG PROGRAM**

Franklin County invites public review and comment on the requested activities for its Consolidated Action Plan for 2004; amendment to its 2003 Community Development Block Grant to re-program \$400,000.00 left over from completed projects and \$322,609.00 in uncommitted funds. An estimated additional \$3,582,941.00 will be available as a combination of CDBG, HOME, ESG, and program income.

The Franklin County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the Consolidated Action Plan at 9 a.m. Tuesday, February 3, 2004 in the Commissioner's hearing room on the 26th floor of the County Government Center, located at 373 S. High Street, immediately following the general session. The deadline for written comments is February 10, 2004. Please address comments to Anthony F. Forte', Director of Community and Economic Development, 25th floor, 373 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 or e-mail, afforte@co.franklin.oh.us.

This notice and the draft plan are also available on the Department's web site at www.co.franklin.oh.us/commissioners/ced.

The Consolidated 2004 Action Plan identifies how funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be spent in 2004. (April 1, 2004-March 31, 2005)

TARGET AREA REVITALIZATION

CDBG FUNDS

Clinton Township

\$108,500

This project will relieve storm water drainage problems in the East Clinton Target area of Clinton Township by replacement of deteriorated storm sewers with larger pipes to increase capacity. 8400 lineal feet of roadway along Sale Road will be replaced.

**\$132,000 is being requested from OPWC to facilitate this project.
118 low/mod income households benefit from this activity.**

Canal Winchester \$200,000

This is Phase II of the South Central Redevelopment Project in the historic area of Olde Canal Winchester.

Hilliard \$250,000

Phase II Old Hilliard repair, replace and construct new storm water drainage system. This is a new target area according to the 2000 census. 747 low/mod income persons will be served by this improvement

Gahanna \$250,000

This is a spot blight treatment area called Creek Side in an older business area of the community. A street scape will be created to incorporated the creekside park area into a revitalized business area in the community and to enhance investment opportunities in the area.

Darbydale \$100,000

Construction funds for the main sewer installation project in this community of Pleasant Township.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Home Ownership Programs

**Down Payment Assistance \$75,000
HOME FUNDS**

Forgivable loans to *moderate*-income households to increase homeownership. Up to \$5,000 per household toward down payment and closing costs for a first time homebuyer. After six years loan is forgiven. Fifteen households will be assisted. A certificate of completion from a HUD approved counseling agency for a full 8 hours Homeownership training is required and a fee will be paid to the counseling agency for the service.

CHDO Development and Operating Funds Set-Aside	\$202,457
	HOME FUNDS

Funds will be awarded to one or more certified Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) for the development of affordable homes for first time homebuyers outside the City of Columbus. Funds may be loaned for the development or sponsorship of new or rehabilitated homes, down payment assistance or other costs associated with the development of housing. Funds (\$50,614) will be granted for operating expenses of CHDOs.

Westerville Senior Housing	\$500,000
	HOME FUNDS

Affordable Housing Competition	\$500,000
	HOME FUNDS

Competitive Selection of Affordable Housing Project(s)

HOME Staff Expense	\$96,228
	HOME FUNDS

Staff expense for implementation of certain HOME funded activities.

Home Repair Programs

Home Rehabilitation Loan Program	\$590,400
	HOME FUNDS

Home rehabilitation loans up to \$25,000 that are deferred or forgivable over 11-20 years are made to very low, low and moderate-income homeowners. Loans are used to bring homes into compliance with HUD Decent Safe and Sanitary (DS&S) Standard such as plumbing, electrical and structural. These loans are also available to homeowners whose houses have been found to have lead-paint hazards by the Franklin County Lead Safe Program. Eighteen (18) homes will be rehabilitated.

Urgent Need Grants	\$120,000
	CDBG FUNDS

Grants to very low and low income single family home owners for up to \$5,000 to repair/replace a major system of a house where failure to do so will threaten the household's immediate health or safety. 15 households can be served.

Handicap Accessibility Grants

**\$ 70,000
CDBG FUNDS**

Grants up to \$6,500 per households to remove architectural barriers to entrances and exits from home or apartment, and accessibility to bathrooms and kitchens. 7 households will be assisted. (\$55,000)

Franklin County contracts with the Mid-Ohio Board for Independent Living Environment (MOBILE) to solicit applications from hearing impaired and install adaptive equipment. Ten households will be assisted. (\$15,000)

Home Weatherization Assistance Program

**\$150,000
CDBG FUNDS**

Franklin County will issue a contract to weatherize the homes of very low-income families and individuals. These funds can be supplemented with the federal Home Weatherization Assistance Program and Columbia Gas WarmChoice. Approximately fifty households will be assisted.

Water Quality Areas

CDBG FUNDS \$550,000

Assist Low/mod income homeowners to connect to sanitary sewers in designated areas. Funds to repair failed on-site sewerage disposal systems and wells may be funded from this program

YERKE

\$2,000

Loan servicing

PUBLIC SERVICES

**Homeless Prevention
and Transition Program**

**\$125,000
CDBG FUNDS**

Franklin County contracts with the Community Shelter Board (CSB), which in turn subcontracts with Lutheran Social Services and other

organizations. Program provides emergency rent/mortgage/utility payments as well as mediation and counseling to enable families and individuals to remain in housing. Also provides rent and deposits to enable homeless households to leave shelters and obtain permanent housing. One hundred thirty-five households are estimated to be served. Includes \$10,000 for Continuum of Care Grant combined application process.

Emergency Shelter Operations ESG \$ 83,657

Provision of essential services for homeless. The Community Shelter Board reviews proposals from homeless shelters and awards grants based on priorities to address emergency shelter needs of homeless population.

Northwest Counseling Services HOMESHARING program \$39,159
CDBG FUNDS

Franklin County contracts with Northwest Counseling Services to match low and very low-income people with elderly or disabled homeowners in return for chores and services. Homeseekers find that once in Homesharing, their monthly housing cost may be as little as \$50-200 a month. Home providers often receive very affordable in-home help from their homesharing partners and retain the ability to remain in their own home. An estimated 25 county residents are expected to be assisted.

Home Buyer Counseling Certificates \$20,000
CDBG FUNDS

Homebuyer counseling and training is required and a certificate of completion for an 8-hour course from an HUD approved counseling agency for those first time homebuyers using the Down payment Assistance Program. A fee will be paid to the HUD approved counseling agency that conducts the training and provides the Certificate.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES CDBG FUNDS \$475,000

Business Development Activities – Revolving Loan Fund \$325,000

Loans available to new and expanding enterprises outside the City of Columbus that create jobs for low and Moderate-income employees.

Micro Enterprise Loans **\$100,000**

Brownfields **\$ 50,000**

Funds available for Clean Ohio Grants to reclaim contaminated sites.

ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

\$471,400
CDBG FUNDS

Grant administration, program management and coordination **\$393,400**

Franklin County Community and Economic Development Department will provide overall program management and oversee all program design and implementation activities of sub-recipients or contracted services. In addition, the Department will administer the tax incentive program for all Enterprise Zones and three Community Reinvestment Areas, monitor all tax incentive agreements, and provide technical assistance to all local governments on economic development, other tax incentive issues, and brownfields.

Housing Advisory Board **\$6,000**

The Housing Advisory Board reviews application for Bond and Tax Credit projects for consistency with the Consolidated Plans of Franklin County and the City of Columbus. It monitors completed projects for continued compliance with affordability compliance by the owner/developer.

Fair Housing Services, **\$72,000**

Franklin County contracts with the Columbus Urban League for the following services: education, advocacy, testing and enforcement of fair housing laws and implementation of Fair Housing Plan.